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Narrators**

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Interviewer**

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Video Photography**

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JW: Would you please tell us about your experiences with Kam Wah Chung and how you came to know Doc Hay and how you came to be involved with Kam Wah Chung.

B: Well my husband, Tom, was a big believer in the Chinese Doctor and we thought they could cure anything. They were good, I mean, you know, it was amazing. So I wasn't feeling too good that summer – fall I guess so he decided he'd take me up there for a checkup with Doctor – Hay – Doc Hay should have said. So we go in there, this building, it looks just like then as I picture it does now. Did the last time I was in there about three years ago. He just walks up and just puts his fingers on your pulse you know and just sits there and tells ya everything about ya. How ya feel and everything else. It was amazing, I couldn't believe it and evidently he was right because he gave me some of his herbs that we took home and cooked and drank the juice or whatever you call it ya know. It really did help me cause I'd been having problems with my kidneys. After that I never had but one short problem with my kidneys up to this date. It was great. Like I said he could do all that by just feeling of your pulse ya know, and talking to him you know how it was.

JW: So when you went to see him, did you walk in the door or did you have to wait or knock on the door or...

B: We knocked on the door of course. I think Tom, I don't know if Tom had told him we were coming but anyway we went in and the Doctor, the other older Lung On, is that his name? He always knew Tom's voice and as quick as Tom would come through the door and speak, he'd say, "Tom Morris come in." And so we went in and just sit there in the front part of the room and talk to Doctor Hay – Doc Hay.

JW: (showing Billie a drawing layout of the inside of the building)  
As you came in to this front door, right here, and then were there chairs? You said you sat down?

B: As I remember we just sat right down just as you came through the door, there was (not clear) then the kitchen was off over this way. I remember him going in there, going through some cupboards for part of his medical things.

JW: He went through the door?

B: It was an open door.

JW: He went through the door. Oh.

B: Yea, and picked up some of his....there was a cupboard back of where he was sitting right there in that front area where he got some of his, I guess you call'm herbs don't ya?

JW: Do you recall any other furniture that was in this room?

B: Not especially, no. I remember a table was there and there chairs were sitting there. I couldn't tell ya now what else was there.

JW: Was Doc Hay sitting when you came in or was he standing?

B: I can't remember whether --- I think he was standing in the room when we came in the door if I remember.

JW: Was it in the winter time? Do you remember if it was heated in the building?

B: It must have been in the fall of the year because it was still pretty warm.

JW: Do you remember any heater, wood stoves, any wood that was around for burning?

B: I'm not sure about the front room but I know there was an old iron kitchen range in the kitchen. It was still in there, the same one three years ago.

JW: Do you recall anything about the outside of the building? What was around the building when you went?

B: Well just that old board sidewalk, walking up there to it and outside stairs that went up along side of it ya know.

JW: The outside stairs went up to the second floor?

B: Yes, uh-huh.

JW: Did you ever have any reason to go up there or have anybody talk about what was up there?

B: No, we never went up there at all. I don't know what was up there. I have no idea.

JW: How much of the building did you go into?

B: We were just in this, just through the door and could see in, up to the right, the kitchen stove. There was an old table back there and the kitchen area with some dining chairs around it.

JW: How about the store? Was there a store in there at the time? Were there things for sale? Food stuff?

B: Well we don't buy anything but there was, I could see, tins of things up in the cupboard. I don't know what they were. I have no idea what it was. Some of those little vials of liniment he gave Tom.

JW: Your husband went to see him also on various occasions?

B: At different times I know Tom took his Nephew one time and he had spinal meningitis and his head was drawing back and his arms and legs were too. I didn't see this, but, Tom told me they just laid him down on the table and took what, Tom said, to him, looked like an old spoon. An old flattened out spoon. He started up here at the back of his neck, went right down his spine and scrapped his spine till the blood came out of it. Jim walked out of there and they had packed him in.

JW: Wow!

B: It was amazing how well he got because that was very serious.

JW: Very serious.

B: We were course all scared he wasn't gone-na make it you know. Tom said well if we'd taken him to any other doctor he probably wouldn't have but these Chinese doctors were real good about blood poisoning I think.

JW: When you went to Doc Hay he gave you some stuff, some things to drink, you had to boil and drink??

B: Oh, I don't know, some thicken stuff some conglomeration of stuff. Leaves and stumpy looking things you know. Stink when we boiled that stuff. I told Tom I'm not

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gon'a be able to drink that . Tom said, "You Will." I drank it all but it didn't taste very good. (Laughing) Some experience, I hadn't gone to many doctors at that time, I was pretty well, about twenty years, I guess.

JW: Bought how tall was he?

B: Not very tall. Wasn't much taller than I am as I remembered.

JW: And you are...?

B: About five feet. He wasn't as tall as Tom and Tom was about five foot seven inches, five foot eight inches. No, wasn't either, no, Tom was about five foot ten inches I guess. I spose, probably, I don't know, probably five foot six inches to five foot seven inches. Doc Hay was as I remember him.

JW: What else do you recall about him? His appearance?

B: Well it's been so many years that I even thought about it that I can't tell you to be right truthful with ya.

JW: Do you remember anything about what he is wearing?

B: No, I really don't. I can't remember. Seemed to me like he had loose jacket on over his pants.

JW: What was the atmosphere like inside the store? Inside the room you went into? Was it, what kind of sight, smells, sounds?

B: It was cool. Everything was real clean but it all smelled just like that medicine did.

JW: Is there anything you could compare it to that you have smelt since then?

B: No I really can't say, I don't know what it was to be quite truthful with you. I thought when I first walked in there it was smoke. But I'm sure it wasn't smoke. I don't know weather they smoked or not. I have no idea. (unclear) smell of that medicine. What ever it was, herbs I guess. I don't know what he called it to be right truthful with you.

JW: Were there other people in the store or coming and going while you were there?

B: Not while we were there, no.

JW: You said your Nephew went to see the doctor.

B: Later on. This was another time. This was Tom's Nephew and I didn't go with them when they went.

JW: Did you talk to other people in the community who had gone to Doc Hay? Did he doctor a large number of people here in John Day?

B: I have no idea, I think he must have, think he was (unclear). I think quite a few people went and I know a lot of people with wounds. Like I say he had quite a reputation with blood and wounds like this.

JW: We talked a little bit about Lung On, who was a business man. He and Doc Hay were business partners. Did you know him? Do you have any recollection to him?

B: I saw him there that day and I know, and, he was the one that owned that garage wasn't he? The old tourist garage here in John Day. Yea, and my husband's brother worked for him.

JW: Did he ever tell you anything about him?

B: No, we never talked about it to be very truthful with ya.

JW: Did you ever hear any stories about Lung On or his business or people he did business with?

B: No, I don't. I didn't know anything about cars at that time. (laughing) They always said he was going blind ya know, things like that but other than that I had seen him but right now I can't tell you what that man looked like. I can remember seeing pictures of him recently but .....

JW: What can you tell me about China Town that was over there? When you went there was there anything there besides the store? Were there other buildings there?

B: I don't remember of any. I really don't. I don't know when the Chinese people left. Evidently they left before I came up here. I came up here 1937 – 1938.

JW: You mentioned Doctor Wah.

B: Bob – Doctor Bob

JW: Did you go to see him?

B: We were in his home. He was in the white house there. Isn't that where the dentist, I guess, is now, isn't it?

JW: I'm not sure exactly which one it is.

B: It was exactly across the street.

JW: Maybe it is the Bed & Breakfast.

B: Well what ever it is. I don't know what it is. I know we went down there one time when Doctor Spalding had it and I am sure it was the same place. At any rate, I know he had that new house or built it himself. I don't know what it was when he first came here. I don't know. It was a new home, I know that.

JW: What kind of illness did you go to see him for and what kind of treatment did he provide for you?

B: Doc Bob? I can't remember to be very truthful with you. I don't know. I just couldn't tell ya. Tom always liked the three doctors. Doctor Bob, Doc Hay, and Lung On. He was always going down to visit with them. He was a great visitor. He would go down there to visit and I guess that's why we were there more than, --- We weren't always doctoring. (laughter)

JW: So you – your husband were friends.

B: Yes, we thought a lot of those gentlemen.

JW: Did he have any problems communication with him? Doc Hay? Was Doc Hay's English such that they -----

B: Tom didn't, he could understand every word he said but I couldn't understand a word any one of them said. (laughter) I am not good at picking up on different languages like that. Tom could talk just exactly like them. When he'd come home he just say, sounded just like they were sit'en there talking to him. He could say just exactly what he said and in the same tone. It was amazing.

JW: Do you recall anything about the opening of the museum when it was first opened years ago?

B: No, not really. I didn't go up when they first talking about it. In fact its' been about three to four years ago when Elaine and I decided we'd go up there one day. That's the first time I'd been back in that building since 1946. Like I say, to me it looked just like as I remembered the first time I ever walked through that door. I couldn't see much change. There was a lounge at left side of the door and another open door where---

I don't know weather it was their bed, had covers on it or a bed they had for their patients. I don't know what it was. I remember that.

JW: Do you know of any items from the Kam Wah Chung or from the museum that people might have or was given to them? I think some items may have been sold from the store. Pictures?

B: No, I don't have any pictures.

JW: You mentioned you had some of the vials that had the lineament in that your husband got.

B: Uh-huh and I don't know if I still have it or not, one of those cans of Tiger Salve. Had one of those too.

JW: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experiences in Kam Wah Chung?

B: Like I say, it's been so long ago. I still marvel that they can just put their finger tips on your pulse and tell you all these things and they tell ya just exactly how you felt too.

JW: Could you give me any examples? Like what would they say to you about how you felt?

B: He told me I had pain in my stomach. I know it was from my kidneys.

JW: Did he ask you questions?

B: Very little. No.

JW: He would just check your pulse and told you?

B: Talk to me and tell me now is this how you feel. I was scared. I can't remember what he said; I wasn't use to it, being doctored. I thought I was immune to it at that age. I don't know, I can't remember the conversation to be truthful with you.

JW: What would you say the Chinese have contributed to the community here?

B: Well, I think their medication was a big help really. I really, really do. I know when they left, Doctor Bob stayed later cause the others were dead I guess. I know there was a big hole in the area when the doctors weren't there any longer.

JW: Good to know.

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B: Did to me. I don't know how other people feel about this but to me they were a real big help for out county.

JW: Thank you so much. We really appreciate all your help.